

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 25-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 13, 25, and 26 have been amended herein. Claims 21-24 and 27-28 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph due to an antecedent basis issue. Claims 10 has been amended to address this issue. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-7, AND 10-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-7, 10-20, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,416,831 ("Chewning"). Claims 21, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on combination of Chewning and U.S. Patent No. 6,370,149 ("Gorman"). All pending claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The inventions defined in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are related to methods and computer-readable media for displaying a soft key label or processing a selection made from a menu in general. Independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 have been amended herein to further clarify pertinent features of the invention.

For example, independent claim 1 recites creating a message based on a menu selection, passing the message to a menu processing object, and creating an event based on the menu selection by the menu processing object. Claim 1 further requires, *inter alia*, that "when the plane display changes, the soft key is deactivated." According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention,

"[W]hen the line plane changes, a "wiper" comes across the display area. During this animation, the soft keys are grayed out (for typically ¼ to ½ second) so that the user cannot use those keys. When the plane is displayed and the animation is complete, the key labels are displayed in an active state. This prevents invalid events from occurring from having a user press soft keys before the system is ready to process the event."

See, for example, page 25, lines 9-15 of the present specification. Other independent claims 13, and 25-26 have recitations similar to those of claim 1. For example, independent claim 13 requires that "when the text strings change, the soft key label set is deactivated." Since

support for the amendments is found at, for example, page 25, lines 9-15, no new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified aspects of the invention recited in independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, i.e., that the soft key is deactivated when the plane display changes or when the text strings change.

Specifically, the primary reference, the Chewning patent, generally describes a system in which the telephone 14 is connected to the service circuit node 11 via the PSTN. However, there is no description in Chewning about the claimed temporary deactivation of a soft key mechanism. The Chewning patent is silent on deactivating a soft key when a mode is changing as claimed. It is respectfully submitted that the other cited reference, the Gorman patent, also fails to teach or suggest the claimed deactivation of a soft key function. Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26 are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

The Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims are respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, all of these claims will not be argued separately. Other claims each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 13, and 25-26, and therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 13, and 25-26.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext. 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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